

Good after Noon to all members of Commission

My name is Harpaul Singh Rana. I <sup>was</sup> a senior member Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. I come from a family of Educationists. For that reason I am known as an engineer by profession and a teacher by passion. 18 years ago in 1996 I took early retirement as a Chief Engineer and General Manager to pursue my passion in teaching. At that time I <sup>got my</sup> acquired Master Teacher CDC permit to teach toddlers and infants. <sup>Then I moved on as</sup> After two years, as a credentialed teacher in Multiple and Single Subjects I moved to Elementary, Middle and High Schools. At present I am working in Logan High School in Union City for the past ten years. I am also a Director of Dasmesh Academy a Not for profit Educational Organization.

Throughout my teaching career I have served as Instructional leader, curriculum development committees, member of School Site Council and have been involved in preparing instructional curriculum for schools right from the age of 3 years to High School both in US and India. (From 1984-1992 I was a founding member of two schools named Dasmesh Academy and Budha Dal Khalsa School in Punjab, India)

I must say that that the current History and Social Science Draft Framework is well drafted. <sup>as far as inclusion about Sikhism</sup> I must appreciate the hard work the commission has put in drafting this. It has very well kept in mind its audience, the teacher and taught. Whenever some-thing new is added the teachers have to undergo extensive professional development, specially the current one who has totally no background of the subject.

After the Sikh Genocide in India in 1984 and several incidents of hate Crime after 9/11 in U.S where in Sikhs most vulnerable to such incidents, and sikh children suffered bullying in schools, it was realized that Sikhs are not Hindus. They have a separate identity and a Separate Flag.

In 2012 and thereafter California Legislature declared the month of November as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month to promote awareness of the contributions of Sikh Americans to California's History and its economic growth.

Sikhism has had a vast influence and impact on Northern India, with a significantly greater following as a great religion of the World, with more than 23 million



followers World Wide. History of Sikhs, as a new addition in the Framework, is very age appropriate that keeps in view all aspects. It is well balanced to the fact it accurately reflects the patterns of immigration in California, their achievements, the structure and inception of religion, it' religious movements and the tenants of faith. Thus it does not call for any editing in the included text, except that Guru Granth should be referred to in its full context as Guru Granth Sahib. I am not backing up, what I say with any kind of evidence, <sup>in this short time</sup> but if there is a need, I have it and am ready to provide to commission if comes to that.

However, I do have to say one thing, when I read Chapter 4 of Draft Curriculum for Grade 7, wherein we have included China in middle ages, The Sub Saharan Civilization of Medieval Africa, Medieval Japan, Medieval Europe, Meso-American and Andean Civilizations, how can we afford to leave the medieval period of World's largest Democracy "India". This is specifically so when we are covering early civilization of India in grade -6. I know it can be argued that it is too much of work and too much for our students, but at the same time it will be unfair to them if we leave it out. I will appreciate and encourage the commission to somehow consider its inclusion as well to be fair to our students.

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